# Alberta Finance
# Economic Bulletin

## ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF May 14, 2001 TO May 18, 2001

| | Reference Period | Month/Previous Month (m/m) | Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Motor Vehicle Sales | March | | | During the month of March, Canadian new motor vehicle sales increased 0.5%, after a sharp 4.0% decline in February, to 126,086. In Alberta, consumer demand for motor vehicles showed continued strength as sales in March were up 3.8% from February 2001 and 3.7% from March 2000. The strongest motor vehicle sales growth between February and March occurred in Newfoundland (18.6%) and PEI (12.7%). Manitoba and Ontario each had modest declines of 0.3%. North American built cars lost market share to foreign competition accounting for 73.1% of all passenger cars sold in March 2001, compared to 76.3% in March 2000. |
| Alberta | 15,037 | 3.8% | 5.0% | |
| Canada | 126,086 | 0.5% | -7.9% | |
| Manufacturing Shipments ($millions) | March | | | Canadian manufacturing shipments recovered from a 3.6% decline in February by increasing 1.7% in March. The rise is attributed to stronger production of motor vehicles, computer and electronic products. Even with March's increase, shipments are 5.2% below their peak, which was reached in October 2000. Shipments increased the most in Nova Scotia (6.4%), Manitoba (4.0%), and Saskatchewan (3.4%). There was a decline in shipping in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut (-2.4%), Newfoundland (-0.9%), and British Columbia (-0.8%). |
| Alberta | 3,785 | 0.7% | 6.4% | |
| Canada | 43,741 | 1.7% | -4.8% | |
| Consumer Price Index | April | | | Alberta's CPI increase of 2.6% from April 2000 was the third lowest among provinces. The largest gains in Canada were in Ontario (4.3%) and Quebec (3.8%). These were dominated by sharp increases in energy prices and tobacco taxes. The CPI for Canada increased 0.7% between March and April, and 3.6% from April 2000. Unusually low energy prices in April 2000 contributed significantly to this year over year increase. |
| Alberta | 118.9 | 0.2% | 2.6% | |
| Canada | 116.4 | 0.7% | 3.6% | |